



Age and School Type as A Determinant of Teenage Pregnancy Among Secondary School Students' in Kabba/Bunu Local Government Area of Kogi State.

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Abstract

The study was conducted to investigate whether age and school types are determinants of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba/Bunu L.G.A of Kogi State. The correlation survey research design was used for the study. The population for the study was 2,206 female students who were enrolled in all thirteen (13) secondary school in the LGA. The sample for the study consisted of (217) female secondary school students in the LGA. A researcher designed questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The reliability index of .60 and above the instrument would be considered reliable to be used for the study. Data was analyzed using multiple for research questions. The postulated hypotheses were tested using ANOVA at .05 level of significance. Findings from the study shows that age is a determinant while school type is also a determinant of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba/ Bunu LGA of Kogi State. It is recommended that teenage girls should be guided at the onset of maturity and adequate measures be taken in respect to those students in co-educational system, so that they will not fall victims of teenage pregnancy.

Keywords: Teenage, Teenage pregnancy, Female, Age, School type.

Introduction

Teenage is often used interchangeably with adolescent. World Health Organization (1997) opined that, teenage is period between 10 and 19 years when the secondary sex characteristics appear. In the same vein, teenage is the span of an individual within the age range of 13 to 19 years. Teenagers have gained freedom, which goes with excitement and fright. They think they are no longer children, yet they are not adults (Emuveyan, 2002). Teenage is a stage of generation gap between childhood and adulthood or a stage where children want to assume the role of an adult thereby resulting into conflict. In the light of the above generation gap, sexual exploit may become the order of the day, which could result to pregnancy.

Teenage pregnancy emerged first as a social problem in the United States only around 1970's. In 1989, 37% of birth to white teenagers and 92% of the birth to black teenagers were unmarried, young women (Anda, Felittl, & Chamman, 2001). Equally, The World Health Organization (2014) reported that about 16 million adolescent girls aged between 15 and 19 years and about one million girls aged between fifteen years give birth every year. Teenage pregnancy, which leads to child birth and its numerous consequences, has become issues of social and public concern. Survey carried out by Onuzulike (2003), revealed that a teenager becomes sexually active at an early age with corresponding high

fertility as a result, there is an increase in sexual activities.

Pregnancy is essential for procreation and continuity of the species. Allen, Bonell, Strange, Copas, Stephenson, Johnson, and Oakely (2007), asserted that pregnancy is usually a welcome development when it occurs at an appropriate time, such as in wedlock and at a mature age. However, it raises concern if it occurs within the age range of 13 to 19 years which constitutes social problems. Pregnancy is the state in which a fetus develops in the uterus of a woman of child bearing age, during the period from conception to birth (Hornby, 2010). Similarly, Skyps (2000) observed that pregnancy is a condition of carrying a developing offspring in the uterus.

Teenage pregnancy is described as a major cause of school dropout among teen girls. It maintained that the pattern of pregnancies among young unmarried adolescents have assumed an alarming proportion, which if unchecked could result in undesirable consequences (The Action Health Incorporation, 2004). Ekwueme (2000) opined that about 400,000 unplanned births occur annually in Nigeria. Half of these births, observed were to single girls between the ages of 15 to 19 years. Ekwueme equally asserted that, one - third of the countries fertility rate among women aged 15 to 19 were high with an average of 164 live births annually.



Age is defined as a number of years that a person has lived or a thing has existed. Physical and social changes in the body are patterned after one's age. Both puberty development and testosterone levels which are marks of the physical maturity that comes with age have been found to be significantly associated with transition to sexual activity (Kirby, 2001). Age also brings with it new social expectations that influence a teen's likelihood to engage in sexual activity, including increased pressure to have sex, perceived norms about sexual behaviour and increased opportunity because of freedom (Kirby, 2001). The age of consent for sexual activity vary by jurisdiction across the world and across Africa. However, it ranges from 12 years in Angola to 20 years in Tunisia (Best Nigeria Forum, 2008). Specifically, the age of consent for marriage should be after teen years so that the pregnancy will not be termed as teenage pregnancy in most African countries such as Benin, Burundi, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guanine, Eritrea, Ethiopia Gabon, Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seycselles, Somalia and South Sudan. In Sudan and Uganda, it is 18 years while others fall within afore mentioned age range. The social stigma associated with sexually active individuals below the age of consent tends to tame their public expression of their pregnancy and as well prevent their request for and their use of contraceptive devices during sex. While those who have attained the age of consent in marriage tend not to exhibit any form of fear when they get pregnant in the course of sexual exploration and experimentation, seeing it as a right and sign of maturity (Nzioka, 2001). While secondary school is the educational institution where teaching and learning processes take place in view of this secondary school education is the education children receive after primary education and before moving to tertiary stage. Secondary school student is therefore, a person who is taught by a more experienced person under a formal school enrolment after completion of primary school level with the opportunity for higher education irrespective of sex, social status, religion or ethical background. At the secondary school level, students are taught different subjects to equip them for higher education (National Policy on Education, 2004). Hornby, (2010) noted that secondary education is meant to expand knowledge of the subject already studied, including the systematic study of literature, foreign languages, sciences, mathematics, social studies and other subjects essential for physical and intellectual

development and to prepare students as future citizens. Secondary school students are young persons between the age of 11 to 18 years who possess the same characteristics as adolescents and are used interchangeably in this study.

Basically, there are two categories of secondary school types: girls' school or boys' school and co-educational schools. Hornby (2005), defined co-educational school as an institution meant for both sexes, the education of both sexes together in the same class or college while single education school are meant for only a particular sex in same class or college. Students are taught in these schools. From the above it is observed that age and school type are probable determinants for teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba/Bunu Lccal Government Area of Kogi State.

The study therefore investigates age and school type as determinants of teenage pregnancy among Secondary School Students in Kabba/Bunu LGA of Kogi State.

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

1. what is the relationship between secondary school students' age and teenage pregnancy?
2. what is the relationship between secondary school students' school type and teenage pregnancy?

Specifically, the researcher hypothesized that

1. There is no statistically significant difference in the mean responses of secondary school students regarding teenage pregnancy based on age.
2. There is no statistically significant difference in the mean responses of secondary school students regarding teenage pregnancy based on type of school.

Methodology

The population for this study consisted of all female students (2206) in all the 13 secondary. The research design adopted for the study is correlational survey Bushman & Huesmann (2001) opined that correlational research survey can help to provide converging evidence for a theory. Equally correlation research survey studies establishing that



there is a relationship between dependent and independent variables, though the relationship is a causal one. In another word correlational survey research cannot be manipulated by the researcher in its practical sense. Survey design employs the use of selected representative sample for the purpose of generalization in the entire population schools in Kabba/Bunu LGA of Kogi State. The study was carried out in Kabba/Bunu LGA of Kogi State in view of the fact that secondary school girls get themselves indulged in pre-marital sex which could result in teenage pregnancy as well as one of the major determinants of school dropout among secondary school students in Kabba/Bunu Local Government Area. These underscore the need for choice of the area of the present study. The sample for the study consists of 222, that is, 10% female students from JS 1 to 3 and SS 1 to 3. Ten percent is considered adequate as it conforms to the rule of the thumb stated by Nwana (2006). The multi-stage sampling procedure was used to determine the sample for the study. The first stage would involve selection of seven secondary schools out of the thirteen secondary schools in the area of study using the purposive sampling technique. Three secondary schools were randomly selected from the urban and four from the rural areas including the two single sex school.

The second stage will be the selection of the classes JS1, JS2 and JS3 and SS1, SS2 and SS3, using the simple random sampling technique by balloting without replacement. These classes were chosen because the students in them are deemed matured enough to be pregnant. The final stage involved random sampling technique in choosing ten percent of the population of each school from the chosen classes representing the various schools.

The instrument for data collection was questionnaire titled age and school type determinants of teenage pregnancy among secondary school student, (ASTDTPSQ) which is developed by the researcher through literature review and in accordance with the objectives of the study. The reliability index of .60 and above the instrument would be considered reliable to be used for the study. Five experts from Kogi State University Anyigba in Department of Human Kinetics and Health Education validated the research instrument which was developed by the researcher through literature review and in accordance with the objectives of the study. Copies of the questionnaire were administered to the respondents and retrieved immediately after completion out of which 217 (98.19%) were returned. The data were analyzed using multiple regression for research questions while the postulated hypotheses were tested using ANOVA.

R = .856
R₂ = .732
Adj R² = .731
Std. Error = .25128

ANOVA

Model	SS	DF	MS	F- ratio	P
Regression	37.265	1	37.265	590.182	.000
Residual	13.639	216	.063		
Total	50.904	217			

Table (1) showed that there was relationship between secondary school students age and teenage pregnancy, R = .856, P<. 05. The table revealed that about 73.2 % of the variance (Adj. R² = 0.731) the relationship between secondary school students age

and teenage pregnancy. The ANOVA result from the regression analysis showed that there was significant relationship between secondary school students age and teenage pregnancy with F - ratio =590.182, P<.05.

R = .919
R₂ = .845
Adj R² = .844
Std. Error = .19148

ANOVA

Model	SS	DF	MS	F- ratio	P
Regression	43.021	2	21.511	586.711	.000
Residual	7.883	215	.037		



Total	50.904	217
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Table (2) showed that there was relationship between secondary school students age and teenage pregnancy, $R = .919$, $P < .05$. The table revealed that about 84.5 % of the variance ($Adj. R^2 = 0.844$) the relationship between school type and teenage preg

nancy The ANOVA result from the regression analysis showed that there was significant relationship between secondary school students age and teenage pregnancy with $F\text{-ratio} = 590.182$, $P < .05$.

Model	SS	DF	MS	F- ratio	P	R_2 Cal	Decision
Regression	37.265	1	37.265	590.182	.000	.732	Reject
Residual	13.639	216	.063				H_0_2
Total	50.904	217					

The results presented in table 3 above show the regression variation between secondary school students age and teenage pregnancy. The F value (590.183) is greater than the calculated P value (.000). Similarly, R_2 cal.732 implies that 73.2% of the regression variation in the cataloguing secondary

school students age based on teenage pregnancy. Since the percentage is far more substantial, the hypothesis (H_0_2) is rejected. That is, there was a strong positive significant relationship between age and teenage pregnancy.

Model	SS	DF	MS	F- ratio	P	R_2 Cal	Decision
Regression	43.021	2	21.511	586.711	.000	.845	Reject
Residual	7.883	215	.037				H_0_2
Total	50.904	217					

The results presented in table (4) above show the regression variation between secondary school students, school type and teenage pregnancy. The F value (586.711) is greater than the calculated P value (.000). Equally, R_2 .845 implies that 84.5% of the regression variation in the cataloguing of secondary school students based on school type. Since the percentage is indeed substantial, the hypothesis (H_0_2) is rejected. That is, there was a strong positive significant relationship between secondary school students based on school type and teenage pregnancy.

Table two (2) shows that there is a significant relationship between school type and teenage pregnancy. This implies that school type is a determinant of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba/ Bunu LGA of Kogi State. This is in tune with Hornby (2005), who asserted that co-educational school as an institution meant for both sexes, the education of both sexes together in the same class or college which can initiate early pre-marital sex among secondary school students while single education school are meant for only a particular sex in same class or college.

Discussions of the findings

Table one (1) shows that there is a significant relationship between age and teenage pregnancy. This is in line with (Kirby, 2001) who found that age comes with new social expectations that influence a teen's likelihood to engage in sexual activity, including increased pressure to have sex, perceived norms about sexual behaviour and increased opportunity because of freedom. The age of consent for sexual activity vary by jurisdiction across the world and across Africa. However, it ranges from 12 years in Angola to 20 years in Tunisia (Best Nigeria Forum, 2008).

Table three (3) and table four (4) respectively show that null hypothesis is rejected. The rejection of the null hypotheses conforms with the submission put forward by Hornby (2005), that co-educational school as an institution meant for both sexes, the education of both sexes together in the same class or college while single education school are meant for only a particular sex in same class or college. Students are taught in these schools might have early exposure to pre-marital sex, in the light of the above age and school type is a determinants of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba/Bunu LGA of Kogi State.



Conclusion

It is concluded that age and school type are determinant of teenage pregnancy among secondary school students in Kabba/Bunu L.G.A of Kogi State based on the results of the findings.

Recommendations

It is recommended that teen girls should be guided at the onset of maturity and adequate measures be taken in respect to those students in co-educational system, so that they will not fall victims of teenage pregnancy.

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